Rise in the Prices of Coal

530. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHl:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have in creased the prices of coal recently; and

(b) if so, the extent of rise made and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average pit-head price of coal produced by Coal India Limited was increased from Rs. 219.00 per tonne to Rs. 249.00 per tonne w.e.f. 1.1.1989 and that of Singreni Collieries Company Limited from Rs. 270.00 per tonne to Rs. 297.00 per tonne w.e.f. 24.1,1989. A premium of 10% has also been levied on superior grades of coal produced in the Raniganj and Korea Rewa fields of Coal India Limited.

The increase in the prices of coal has been necessitated because of increase in the cost of production due to escalation in wages on account of VDA, stores, capital cost etc. The premium on superior grades produced in Raniganj and Korea Rewa fileds has been levied in view of the scarcity of these types of coal in relation to the demand for them.

Modification of the MOU with Public Sector Undertakings

531. PROF.C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to modify the Memorandum of Understanding with public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies with which this new MOU is being signed; and

(d) what are the additional advantages which are likely to arise due to the signing of the modified Memorandum of Understanding?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a), (b) and (d) There is no format of MOU applicable to all public sector enterprises and the MOU is enterprise-specific. Government is constantly trying to refine the contents of the MOU so that the public sector enterprises can be accorded greater autonomy consistent with accountability with a view to judging them on results.

(c) Eighteen public sector undertakings viz. Air India, Bharat Electronic Ltd., Bharat Earth Movers Ltd., Bharat heavy Electricals Ltd., Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd., HMT Ltd., Coal India Ltd., Heavy Engg. Corpn. Ltd., Indian Airlines, indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd., Maruti Udyog Ltd., National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd., Oil & Natural Gas Commn., Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd., Steel Authority of India Ltd., Minerals & Metals Trading Corpn. of